

C. Remarks

In the office action, claims 1-14, 16-21, 23 and 26-32 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 112, second paragraph, as being indefinite; claim 20 is objected to due to minor language informalities; and claims 24 and 25 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as being anticipated by Flomat Ltd Drawings of Lift Table, 1984 (Fomat). Claims 1 and 28 are deemed allowable if rewritten to overcome the rejections under §112 and to include all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims. Claims 2-14, 16-21, 23, 26, 27 and 29-32 are deemed allowable if rewritten to overcome the rejections under §112 and to include all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims. Applicant respectfully traverses the rejections as follows.

Rejections under 35 U.S.C. § 112

The § 112 rejections have been addressed as follows: claim 1 has been amended to reference a single “guide member;” claim 4 has been amended to recite a proper Markush group; claims 23 and 26 have each been amended to reference a single “support sleeve” and “guide member;” and claim 28 has been amended to reference a single “bracket” and “upper stop member.” Although not required in the office action, claim 26 has further been amended to reference a single “lower stop member.”

Claim Objections

Claim 20 has been amended to reference a single “bracket” and “upper support member.”

Rejections under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b)

Claims 24 and 25 have been canceled without prejudice or disclaimer to the subject matter contained therein. Claim 26, originally depending from canceled claim 25, has been amended to depend from claim 18. In consequence of its dependence from claim 18, claim 26 has further been amended to delete subject matter duplicated in intervening claims.

D. Conclusion

Applicant respectfully submits that claims 1-14, 16-21, 23 and 26-32 are now in condition for allowance. If the Examiner is of the opinion that the present application is in condition for disposition other than allowance, the Examiner is respectfully requested to contact the undersigned at the telephone number listed below in order that the Examiner's concerns may be expeditiously addressed.

Respectfully submitted,


Daniel R. Miller
Reg. No. 52,030

KIRKPATRICK & LOCKHART NICHOLSON GRAHAM, LLP
Henry W. Oliver Building
535 Smithfield Street
Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania 15222
Tel. (412) 355-6773
Fax (412) 355-6501